

APPRENTICESHIP

Northern California's First Apprenticeship in Agriculture

In January 2018, the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) approved the first registered apprenticeship in agriculture for the occupation of beginning farm and ranch manager. It took an unusual partnership to get this program off the ground.

As farmers approach retirement, they worry about who will take stewardship of the land. Thus the idea for the apprenticeship was born. Led by the Center for Land-Based Learning, an agricultural education non-profit based in Winters, who partnered with local farmers, Los Rios Community College District and senior consultants from DAS the group formed a unilateral training committee to govern the program. After 3 years and support from legislators, a pilot launched in 2017.



An apprentice in the farm and ranch manager program harvests crops.
Photo courtesy of Center for Land Based Learning.

The California Farm Academy (CFA) Apprenticeship Program introduces apprentices to a variety of agricultural tasks from operating a tractor, planting, harvesting, irrigation, pest management and equipment repair to sales and marketing and even regulatory

paperwork. The two-year program requires 3,000 hours of on-the-job training and 250 hours of related supplemental instruction.

Recently the organization partnered with the Farmer Veteran Coalition to recruit veterans into the apprenticeship. They can use GI Bill funding and receive a monthly housing stipend to support them while they learn.

Applications for the 2020 cohort will be available in Fall 2019. Learn more at: www.landbasedlearning.org/farm-academy-apprentice, or contact staff at 530-795-4146, or apprenticeship@landbasedlearning.org

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